

Up to March 28

NORTH VIETNAM

Wason
DS53/
V6308++

1,742

U. S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

VIETNAM COURIER

April 3

1967

No 104

4th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY - E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street - Hanoi - D. R. V. - Tel 3841



Fighters in the Liberation Armed Forces of Quang Tri (south of the 17th parallel)

● NORTH VIETNAM PEOPLE STAND FOURSQUARE BEHIND PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

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● NEW U.S. WAR ESCALATION DULY PUNISHED BY NORTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE

— The Vinh Linh Armed Forces and People on Mar. 20 Night and Mar. 21 Pounded South - Based U.S. Artillery Positions Which Had Been Shelling the North across the DMZ; 1,070 U.S. Troops Killed or Wounded; 17 Artillery Pieces, 57 Military Vehicles and 5 Helicopters Destroyed.

— On Mar. 17 and 25 U.S. Destroyers Stoddard and Osborn Damaged in Bac Bo Gulf.

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● SINCE MID-MARCH THE L.A.F. HAVE WON REPEATED VICTORIES ON ALL BATTLEFIELDS

The L.A.F. Annihilated and Sadly Mauled 6 Enemy Battalions within 3 Days (Mar. 15 - 21, 1967):

— 3 U.S. Infantry and Motorized Battalions Wiped Out, 54 Tanks and Armoured Cars and 46 Other Military Vehicles Destroyed at Bau Bang (Mar. 19).

— 1 Puppet Battalion Wiped Out 80km East-Northeast of Saigon (Mar. 21).

— 1 U.S. Battalion Knocked Down and Another Decimated 30km Northeast of Tay Ninh (Mar. 21).

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COMMUNIQUE OF THE L.A.F. COMMAND IN EAST NAM BO:

JUNCTION CITY—U.S. BIGGEST OPERATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM—COMPLETELY FOILED

- Over 8,300 Enemy Troops (Mostly G.I.'s) Put out of Action;
- 692 Military Vehicles (Including 387 M.41 Tanks and M.113 Armoured Cars) and 64 Heavy Guns Destroyed; 119 Aircraft Shot Down.

The South Vietnam G.P.X. (Liberation Press Agency) on March 25 released the communique of the Command of the Liberation Armed Forces in East Nam Bo on the big victory of the Tay Ninh armed forces and people over Operation Junction City of the U.S. The communique reads:

In an attempt to make good their defeats and extricate themselves from their passivity and predicament on all battlefields in South Vietnam, after several months of preparations the U.S. aggressors on February 22, 1967 launched Operation Junction City in the northern part of Tay Ninh province. They threw into it most of the U.S. mobile forces in East Nam Bo composed of six infantry brigades of Divisions 1, 25 and 4, the 19th Light Infantry Brigade, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, four armoured regiments, 11 artillery battalions, and a regiment and four battalions of sappers in addition to a multi-battalion marine unit and a number of puppet commando units. All told, the raiding force consisted of 45,000 men, more than 800 tanks and armoured cars, over 300 heavy artillery pieces, hundreds of fighter planes and bombers including B-52 strategic bombers, thousands of lorries and hundreds of military cargo planes.

The U.S. commanders boasted that this was their biggest ever operation in South Vietnam having the following objectives:

1. Attack and split up our resistance base, destroy the storages and other installations of the resistance forces.
2. Destroy the leading organs of the resistance forces.
3. Annihilate part of the Liberation Armed Forces.
4. Set up an outer defence perimeter for the puppet army units engaged in the "pacification" campaign and clamp harsh control on the people east Nam Bo and around the Saigon-Cholon area.
5. Secure a military victory of some kind to bolster up the morale of the puppet army and administration and the U.S. troops who were plagued by scepticism and lack of confidence.

However, the Tay Ninh armed forces and people continuing the traditions of countless struggle of their native land and the heroic traditions of the Liberation Armed Forces, continuously and powerfully attacked the enemy, forcing them to interrupt the operation by inflicting on them most bitter all-round defeats.

The enemy has failed to achieve any one of the objectives of the operation. Far

from wiping out a single small unit of the Liberation Armed Forces, the U.S. has lost an important part of its forces and a sizeable quantity of war materials.

According to incomplete figures during Operation Junction City and Operation Gadsden which was its initial stage the Tay Ninh armed forces and people put out of action more than 8,300 enemy troops, mostly U.S. troops. These included three motorized battalions, an infantry battalion and 19 infantry companies and a battalion and five companies of artillery completely wiped out. The L.A.F. also heavily decimated 5 infantry battalions one of which belonged to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 692 military vehicles of various kinds (including 387 M.41 tanks and M.113 armoured personnel carriers) were destroyed, 119 aircraft shot down and 64 heavy guns destroyed. Of the total force thrown into the operation the enemy's losses accounted for 18% in manpower, 48% in tanks and armoured cars and 34% in heavy artillery.

Shattering to the ground the U.S. hope to set up a defence perimeter for the puppet troops engaged in the "pacification" campaign, the guerrilla war has been even more widely

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D.R.V. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON U THANT'S STATEMENT

- (1) The Ba Don sanatorium (Quang Binh province).
- (2) Nguyen Thi Nhao, 3, wounded on Aug. 12, 1966 at Vinh Trung (Vinh Lank).
- (3) Traces of steel pellets of U.S. shrapnel bombs on the wall of Tran Tuu's house (Quang Binh).
- (4) Nguyen Thi Mai.

VIETNAM COURIER

SOUTH VIETNAM MILITARY SITUATION SINCE MID-MARCH

REPEATED VICTORIES OF THE L.A.F. IN ALL THEATERS OF OPERATIONS

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BAU BANG, Biggest U.S. Failure Since the Dry Season Began

WITHIN 48 hours, the L.A.F. and people in South Vietnam, successfully checking the second U.S. "dry-season counter-offensive" — two telling blows at the enemy at Bau Bang (Thu Dau Mot) and Dong Rum (Tay Ninh) while Operation Junction City was going bankrupt. These were the biggest U.S. failures since the beginning of the dry season.

With the Bau Bang victory, the L.A.F. set a new record in the number of enemy troops wiped out in a single battle: in an hour, 3 U.S. battalions of infantry and motorized troops were put out of action, over 100 military vehicles destroyed. The Bang Rum victory was not less brilliant: in 10 minutes, a U.S. battalion was put out of action, another heavily decimated. These offensives against enemy encampments showed the strides taken by the L.A.F. in surprise attack and annihilation tactics.

Gallant in action, unheard and unseen in their manoeuvres and promoting the surprise factor, the L.A.F. were able from the start to hit enemy units, disrupting the U.S. command and crippling its fire power set-up, thereby wiping out enemy forces.

Bau Bang and Dong Rum proved that the L.A.F. kept the initiative in all theatres, even in the areas where the enemy concentrated their troops. The G.I.'s were reduced to defensive actions. While they were beaten in Kentur, Binh Dinh, in their bases at Chu Lai, Da Nang and their artillery emplacements at Gio Linh and on Highway No. 9 were violently bombarded by our artillery. While Operation

Junction City was being fought off, the base of Bau Bang and the Dong Rum encampments were fiercely attacked. The enemy had to cope with several onslaughts at a time. The 9th I.D. sent to the rescue of the 1st I.D. was badly mauled.

With the 4th victory at Bau Bang, the victories at Dong Rum, Da Nang, Tay Nguyen and Highway No. 9, the L.A.F. applied flexible and creatively varied operational tactics and knocked out an important part of enemy forces. They could annihilate in a single engagement a whole battalion or even a combat group.

The L.A.F. not only wiped out U.S. infantry units but also modern war means, destroying hundreds of planes, military vehicles among them tanks and armoured cars, and tens of big guns. They took as targets enemy encampments, particularly H.Q.'s, transmission and radar centres, electronic installations, war material. They tried particularly to hit officers and technicians. They wanted to strike at major military forces, elite troops, and caused to forces. The losses caused to technical units and material, H.Q.'s, and elite forces seriously impaired enemy military potential. Such was the significance of the Bau Bang and Dong Rum victories.

The victory of Bau Bang has foreshadowed the annihilation of bigger U.S. units. Bau Bang and Dong Rum have given the lie to U.S. propaganda that American military progress had forced the L.A.F. to fall back on small-unit actions and guerrilla warfare. They were, due punishment for the aggressors and a severe warning against their new "escalations".

In Mar. 1967, the Tay Ninh L.A.F. foiled the biggest ever American "search-and-destroy" operation (Junction City) inflicting upon the enemy 8,300 casualties.

Defeated in Tay Ninh, the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division hurriedly withdrew to its base at Dong Du, Cai Chi district, only to receive another hammer blow at

18.45 hours on Mar. 15. With artillery fire, the L.A.F. put out of action more than 300 of the enemy, demolished and damaged 10 aircraft, 36 military vehicles of various kinds, three armoured cars and the whole signal service of the brigade command.

The Yankees were still clamouring that in the Junction City sweep they had blotted the L.A.F. base off

the map and compelled the adversary to split his forces and engage in small operations, when:

On Mar. 19 the L.A.F. smashed a combat team comprising 1 infantry and 2 motorized battalions along with 100 military vehicles of various types at Bau Bang, 70km north of Saigon.

On Mar. 21, they ground down another U.S. battalion and withdrew away another 10km north of Tay Ninh.

On the same day, they knocked out a puppet ranger battalion between Gio Bang and Suoi Cat, Bien Hoa province, 80km east-northeast of Saigon.

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A subsidiary carrier (with his bike) in combat readiness

NEW U.S. ESCALATION DUEL PUNISHED BY NORTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE

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— On Mar. 17 and 25 U.S. Destroyers Standard and Osborn Damaged in Bac Bo Gulf

To retrieve their setbacks in the war of aggression against South Vietnam, and naval attacks on North Vietnam, since Feb. 22, 1967, the U.S. aggressors have been using long-range artillery based south of the DMZ to shell the North, perpetrating crimes against the population on D.R.V. territory.

On Feb. 26, the Liaison Mission of the V.P.A. High Command energetically protested against this practical violation of the U.S. aggressors. On Mar. 4, the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning their new, extremely serious act of war escalation. The U.S. aggressors, however, obstinately continued perpetrating crimes against the population on D.R.V. territory.

To punish this new U.S. act of war escalation, at 18:20 hours on Mar. 20, immediately after an artillery shelling was unleashed by the enemy from south of the DMZ, artillerymen of the Vietnam People's Army, in close co-ordination with the people of Vinh Linh, violently returned the fire and silenced the enemy guns. V.P.A. artillery accurately pounded U.S. gun sites and the stationing area of a U.S. marine battalion. The enemy artillery emplacements became a mess. Their gasoline dumps were set on fire. The whole enemy area was engulfed by fire and ripped by shell explosions. The American aggressors had not yet recovered from their V.P.A. gunners renewed their attacks, driving them into even greater confusion.

According to preliminary reports, the Vinh Linh armed forces and people wiped out 1,070 G.I.'s, destroyed 17 artillery pieces including four 175-mm guns, 57 military vehicles of various types, including 22 armoured cars, 22 armoured trucks, and 57 military vehicles, and set a gasoline dump and large quantities of military equipment on fire.

Two days earlier, on Mar. 17, at 14:30 hours an intruding U.S. aircraft was brought down over northern Quang Binh, 15 minutes later, the U.S. destroyer Standard tried to retaliate but was hit and damaged by the local armed forces and people. It hurriedly fled southward.

Eight days later, on Mar. 23, the U.S. destroyer Osborn attempted to bombard the Vinh Linh area, but was immediately punished by the local armed forces and people. It had to be sent to Subic Bay naval port in the Philippines for repair as its control room, a storage room and part of the radar system guiding its batteries were damaged.

During the same period in which they meted out punishments for their artillery and naval bombardment of the North, the local armed forces and people brought down 6 air craft in the 3 days ending Mar. 26, 2 of them respectively at nightfall and midnight.